Reviewer’s report

Title: Acupressure for smoking cessation - a pilot study

Version: 2 Date: 2 November 2006

Reviewer: George Lewith

Reviewer’s report:

General
The aim of this pilot study was methodological feasibility and this is clearly stated at the end of the introduction. We have very clear reports of drop-out rates, compliance with stimulation of beads and adverse events and it would be ideal to put outcomes for those three main feasibility items in the first paragraph of the discussion.

The intervention using acupressure beads comes at one "a little out of the blue" and I just wonder whether there is any preliminary pilot data for suggesting this treatment methodology. The group A who had beads in the Lung and Shenmen points would have had them placed there because of a specific clinical reason and I just wonder whether we have information about that which would mean the authors really were looking at "best practice" in this instance. I note that there is not a formal CONSORT diagram which would be very useful in this study. We know that the study method was not feasible for a variety of reasons and the authors wisely draw the conclusion that an additional effect from acupuncture is "unlikely to be detectable by the methods used in this study" which sounds to me to be a very sensible, thoughtful and considered view.

The data presented is fine and I would suggest that this study goes forward for publication.

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.